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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,308	10/22/2003	Richard D. Dettinger	ROC920030320US1	6406
46797 7590 02/27/2007 IBM CORPORATION, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW DEPT 917, BLDG. 006-1 3605 HIGHWAY 52 NORTH ROCHESTER, MN 55901-7829			EXAMINER PHAM, KHANH B	
			ART UNIT 2166	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 02/27/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/691,308

Applicant(s)

DETTINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Khanh B. Pham

Art Unit

2166

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 19 December 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).


4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1-4,6,7,9-11,14-18,20-23 and 26-30.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.


Khanh B. Pham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2166

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Claims 1-4,6,7,9-11,14-18,20-23 and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by Wical (US 5,940,821).

Regarding claims 1, 6, and 17, applicant argued that Wical does not teach: "user-specified level of expansion, an interface allowing a user to specify the level of expansion, or an interface that allows a user to specify different sets of expanded search terms associated with different levels of expansion" as recited in these claims. On the contrary, Wical teaches at Col. 32 lines 38-43 a user interface for receiving user's query, wherein the level of expansion of the query terms is specified by the user. For example, as shown in Fig.3, the query 610 are entered by user and the number of search term contained in the query (i.e., "user-specified level of expansion") are specified by the user. In case the query contains only one search term "Legal", then the level of expansion is 1 because the search term will be expanded only to "Government", "Patent" and "Crime" categories. In case the query contains two or three search terms (i.e., Legal, Betting, China), the level of expansion is 2 or 3 to include more category such as Government, Casino, Asia, as clearly shown in Fig. 3.

Regarding claim 11, applicant argued that Wical fails to teach "different one or more expanded search term are obtained for the at least one base search term depending on the name of the field". On the contrary, as shown in Fig. 3 discussed above, Wical teaches the expanded search terms such as "Asia" is obtained for the search term "China" based on the category of the term (i.e., "Geography"), as shown in Fig. 8C.

Regarding claim 21, applicants argued that Wical fails to teach a single repository containing different set of expanded search terms associated with the same base term. On the contrary, Similar to Fig. 3 discussed above, Wical teaches at Figs. 8A-C different categories for mapping to the search term, wherein each category contain different set of terms for expanding the search term as claimed.

Regarding claim 28, applicant argued that Wical only teaches links between categories and terminology but does not teach pointer to a set of expanded search terms. The examiner notes that applicant's specification at [0069] equates pointer to link which includes among other URL, directory path, address or any other type of object that points to or identifies a set of term. Wical teaches the link to the terminology and therefore anticipated the claimed limitation.

In view of the above arguments, the rejection is hereby sustained.